Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Adulteration of Pesticides

474. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether instances of adulteration of pesticides in a big way has come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked the Central Government to bring forward amendments to the Insecticides Act, 1968;

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(d) the likely date by which the Bill to bring forward the amendment to the Insecticides Act will be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) In analysis of pesticides done by this State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) across the country, about 3 to 4% of pesticide samples were found to be misbranded. Whenever any substandard pesticides are found, necessary prosecutions are launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/Suppliers.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Amendments to certain provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 are under consideration.

Productivity of Crops

475. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is a wide variation in the productivity of the crops across different regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase productivity and cropping density?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The variation in the productivity of major crops/crop groups viz. rice, wheat, pulses, total foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific and area specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further in the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in the next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.